

Ag 3-1
x - Sec 4 U.S.
x - Sec 6 Argentina

President Denies Plan For Raid Reprisal Test

Special to the Herald Tribune

EMERGENCY WHITEHOUSE,
June 16.—President Eisenhower moved swiftly today to keep practice "Operation Alert" from disrupting the serious business of the nation's foreign relations.

He called reporters to him to personally refute speculation about "massive retaliation," even on a mock scale, against an imaginary enemy in the wake of yesterday's simulated nuclear attack against sixty-one American cities.

Approaching a big four meeting in mid-July in Geneva, Switzerland, designed to lower world tensions, the President said he wanted no misunderstanding about fictitious military exercises against an unnamed power. He didn't say so, but in the public mind that enemy probably would be identified inevitably as the Soviet Union.

In Secret Pentagon

He took this step before he motored over dusty, tree-lined mountainous roads to a secret underground Pentagon, in whose air-conditioned corridors he met for four hours with members of the National Security Council.

This N. S. C. meeting was both a "game" and a serious session, with the surprise addition of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the list of top governmental officials who regularly or frequently attend its meetings.

About thirty minutes was spent in talking about the relocation exercise. Then the meeting moved on to the regular agenda of business that would have confronted them at their regular Thursday meeting in Washington.

Complicated Exercise

The President said the first test of efforts to relocate the government and keep it functioning efficiently had shown "more complications than I ever believed possible." These were discussed in the opening part of the N. S. C. meeting.

What the members talked about at their regular meeting was secret as usual, but it was apparent the conferees, including Allen Dulles, head of the world-wide Central Intelligence Agency, had no inkling of the brewing revolt in Argentina.

The President and top advisers were surprised when informed by radio dispatches at a road stop en route from the defense location back to the temporary residence.

On hand for the session were the highest military and civilian advisers to the President. Some of them had flown by helicopter and others had come by automobile to this pre-arranged rendezvous deep under the earth where they would be safe from the explosive impact of even a hydrogen bomb.

Military Chiefs Attend

The presence of the highest military leaders, headed by Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and including all four service chiefs, had led to speculative stories that the surprise fictitious attack would be followed promptly by swift and deadly reprisal.

Gen. Eisenhower usually doesn't talk to reporters except at his formal weekly conferences, but today he called members of the small group accompanying him to his side so he could stop further guessing along this line.

"This is entirely a matter of civil defense and relocation," the President said. "No military problem is assumed at all under this fictitious situation. We are simply trying to see whether, under conditions assuming the destruction of the United States, the government could continue to function."

The President was up early and worked at his desk on governmental problems that no head of state can drop even for a few days, even for an exercise as important as this one. He then drove to the underground Pentagon and returned for lunch with Mrs. Eisenhower and her mother, Mrs. John S. Doud, who had motored over from the family farm at Gettysburg, Pa. They drove back to the farm in the afternoon. The President will join them tomorrow at the conclusion of his participation in the operation.

On Sunday afternoon, Gen. Eisenhower will fly to San Francisco for the tenth anniversary United Nations meeting. He will address the meeting on Monday.

CPYRGHT